

HB 1976 -- Excise Tax on Cigarettes

Sponsor: Oxford

Beginning January 1, 2013, this bill increases the excise tax on cigarettes from 17 cents to 75% of the national average of excise taxes levied upon the sale of cigarettes. The revenue generated by the additional tax will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and an amount equal to at least the minimum amount recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must be appropriated solely for tobacco use prevention and cessation purposes.

The bill contains a referendum clause and will be submitted to qualified voters in November 2012 or at a special election called by the Governor and becomes effective only upon the majority approval of the voters.